

Lesson Topic – Friendship

That's Good to Know – Real friends don't come easy. It takes work and sacrifice to be a friend.

Bible Lesson – A true friend. Luke 11:5-8

Spoken Word – "Some friends may ruin you. But a real friend will be more loyal than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

Parent Corner –

Today's Bible lesson utilizes the "friend in need" parable. From one perspective, the parable is humorous. Think about it – a man's friend arrived at his house, and it was late at night. The friend was hungry, but the host was out of bread. So the host went to another friend's door, knocked and asked for help. He persisted to get his other friend out of his comfort zone so he could be a good host to his friend who was hungry. The host and the man with bread with them. The hungry man was fed and everyone went to bed. Their friendship can be a model for God's love and provision for us. Friendship not only encourages, but it gets out of bed at midnight to share. It may cause us to grumble, but not for long.

Friendships are a precious gift from God. Maybe you remember the childhood rhyme, "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other is Gold." It's even more true in adulthood. Friends are precious and especially vital in our selfish society. While weeping with those who weep occasionally happens rejoicing with those who rejoice is a rare occurrence. But a true and real friend is genuinely glad when their friends succeed.

Good friends will help guide and direct us. Anybody can be blunt and tell you an unpleasant truth. But a friend will have proper interest in telling you what needs to be said, even though it may be unpleasant. A friend can tell the truth because they have a loving concern for your well being and a deep interest in your welfare. Proverbs 27:6 says in this way, "The slap of a friend can be trusted to help you. But the kisses of an enemy are nothing but lies."

We can guide our children toward good friendships, but the time is short. Soon their peers influence their decisions more strongly than parents and teachers. We can't pick our kid's friends any more than choose their relatives. But we can steer them toward good friendships through our words, and most of all by our actions. They learn from watching our friendships.